

*Mr. PEPYS to the Lord Mayor and
Court of Aldermen upon the Present
State of CHRIST-HOSPITAL.*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Humphry
Edwin, Lord Mayor.*

Tork-Buildings, July 11. 1698.

My Lord,

MY laſt to your *Lordſhip* is now more than three Months old. In which, led by your *Lordſhips* own Invitation, I choſe to lodge in your Hand the Execution of a Matter, to which I fully believe your *Lordſhip* did then as little deſign, as I did expect, or indeed the Matter it ſelf could be thought to bear, the *unnecessary delay* of three Days. Such was the *Account* it brought you of the then *wretched State* of **Chriſt-hoſpital**; and that under an hourly Declenſion towards *worſe*.

The eſteem I have, *My Lord*, of the Sincerity of your Intentions, and the Affurances you were pleaſed at the ſame time, and by repeated Meſſages ſince, to give me thereof, will not permit me to charge this *Loſs of Time* (though greater in it ſelf than the whole Remainder of your *Lordſhips* year of *Mayoralty*, will (I fear) ſuffice to make amends for) upon ought elſe, than ſome unforeſeen *Difficulties* in your attempting that *Singly*, which would call for the *Strength*, as it does indeed on the *Duties*, of *More*; I mean of the whole **Body Corporate** of the **City**, intruſted therewith by the **Croton**.

Which **Body** not being (that I know) to be otherwiſe come-at by me, than through that of the *Court of Aldermen*; I have determined upon diſcharging *my Duty* thereto in this *Matter*, by a *Line* or two at its next *Meeting*: When your *Lordſhip* with them, aſſiſted by my forementioned *Paper* of the 5th. of *April*, and the **Report** accompanying it of the 23^d. of *March*, will, I doubt not, be fully enabled both to judge and do what ſhall then appear reaſonable. I am with all Reſpect,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhips moſt obedient Servant

S. Pepys.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
and Court of Aldermen,

York-Buildings, July, 12. 1698.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

IT being from this Court only that I derive my relation as a Governour to **Christ-Hospital**; 'tis to it alone I hold my self first accountable for the *Issue* of my Endeavours under that **Charge**.

Not that either *You* or *my self* (could it have been avoided) had ever had the trouble of it in this *Place*: As having made it my many Years Labour, to have prevented or cur'd elsewhere (at the **Hospital**, I mean) those **Evils**, which from my disappointments *there*, I am now driven to *expose* to *You here*.

What they are, I take leave to refer You for Information to two *Papers* of mine, of the 23d of *March* and 5th of *April* last; which (besides many others lying with the **Hospital**) have for some *Months* been by me lodg'd, in the Hands of the Right Honourable and my Honoured Friend the Lord Mayor; shewing the present *State* of this Unhappy *House* in its **Revenue**, **Stock**, and **Debts**; with another prepar'd at the same time, and ready (when *seasonable*) to follow them, relating to the no less wretched *Condition* of it, in its **Moral** and **Religious Economy**: Making together, such an Instance of **ROYAL** and **PRIVATE CHARITIES**, consecrated to Uses the most Pious and Publick, so spent, so misapply'd, perverted, and unaccountably sunk, within so little time, to so great a *Value*, and with so reproachful an *Account* to be given of any End of its Institution answer'd, towards either God or Man; as I firmly believe, the *Story* of no *one* House of Charity, in any Christian Age or Place, can parallel.

And because I foresee, that without immediate application from this Court, nothing herein can receive Amendment; But that on the contrary, the *Support*, *Service*, and *Honour* of this **Religious House** must fall, and both its *Miscarriage* and *Debts* become the **City's** to answer-for. And more than so; that for what concerns the **Mathematick Foundation** there, erected by my Royal Master King Charles II. for the *Advancement* of **Naviga- tion**; my Personal Interest in the *Prosperity* of it, will oblige me to become an *Assistant* in the *Enquiries*, which in Right to His present *Majesty* must be expected, into the *Effects* of what has been spent thereon; and the *Ballance* (to above 20000 *l.*) yet resting to be accounted-for to Him. I thought it my *Duty*, while under my present Relation to this Your *Service*, to endeavour hereby, and by Your timely improving it, both to excite and enable You, to bring-about such a *Reformation* herein of Your own, as may prevent the *Consequences* of the *want* of it.

If not; it remains only, that I beg Your *disburthening* me of my *Charge* herein;

herein ; that I may be at liberty to pursue what may offer it self of greater Efficacy towards the *Recovery* of this **Foundation**, and the *Advancement* of the great **End** of it in our **Navigaton** ; under the nearer Influence and Protection of His **Majesty**, in that of his own late *Erection* on the same *Royal Design* elsewhere. I am, with great Respect,

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Your most Faithful and most Obedient Servant

S. Pepys.

Mr. PEPYS to the Lord Mayor
Upon the Present State of
CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

To the Right Honourable Sir Humphry
Edwin, Lord Mayor.

Tuesday, Octob. 25. 1698.
Tork-Buildings.

My Lord,

A Nother *Three Months* are now run-out, and the whole twelve of your *Lordship's Great Office* at the *Eve* of their *Expiring*; while our poor *Orphans* remain in the same *relieveless State* I left them in with your *Lordship*, in my *Letter* of the *5th.* of *April* last. Wherein nothing more was propos'd of Trouble to your *Lordship* towards the remedying it (and that too of your *Lordship's own seeking*) than the accompanying with your *Authority* my *Report* thereof to the *Gentlemen* of *Christ-Hospital* (to whom it was specially directed) and to the *Body-Corporate* of the *City*, which, as I have heretofore noted, stands originally answerable for the same, to the *Crown*.

In neither of which, though abundantly apply'd to in both, has your *Lordship* thought fit to express any regard to your *Undertaking* to me. But so much the contrary; as to have arraign'd my late *Memorial* to you concerning it (even after your *Own* and the *Court of Aldermen's* solemn *Thanks* to me for it) as a *Libel*, and the only Occasion of the *No-Voice* given your *Lordship*, at the late *Parliament-Election* for the *City*. And this deliver'd me from your *Lordship*, and my *Lady Mayorefs* too, as your *Joint-Message*, by the same *Worthy Citizen*, and Member both of your *Common Council* and *Hospital*, whom your *self* was first pleas'd to employ to me, on those *Pious Errands* I was mis'd by, to the submitting the *Execution* of this *Matter* singly to your *Lordship*.

My Lord, I shall not offer at the asking-after, or even aiming at the Ground of this your so extraordinary *Dealing*, in a *Cause* of so *Religious* an *Import*; as leaving that to *God*, the *City*, and your *Self*, to be reckon'd-for. It shall suffice me, *My Lord*, to observe, That it has arisen from neither of those *Causes*, whereto the *Court of Aldermen* were led to joyn with your *Lordship* in the assigning it, and in the yet unperform'd *Undertaking* for its *Recovery*; your *Sickness*, I mean, *My Lord*, and Sir *Tho. Stamp's Absence*.

A

Give

Give me leave only, to bewail the *Consequences* of it to the **poor**; whatever it may end-in to the **City**. Namely, the Continuance hereby occasion'd to the *Imposure* upon the *Gentlemen* of the *Hospital*; whose better *Information* could not but e're this have produc'd some good *Effects* towards its *Relief*. Next, the more confirm'd *Admission* of their *Methods*, whose *Interest* (and therefore *Business*) it seems to be, to suppress that *Information*. And lastly, the rend'ring the *Poverty*, *Disorders*, and *Impieties* of the *Place*, so much less superable than they appear'd to me when first laid before your *Lordship*; as to put me beyond all *Hopes* of their *Redress*, from any lower *Hand* than that of a **Royal Visitation**.

The *Power* of which (after so glorious a *Proof* of it as I have lately seen, to the lasting *Honour* of his *Lordship*, the present *Lord Chancellor*, in the *Case* of **St. Katherine's**) I cannot, on behalf of our distressed **Orphans**, and in right to their Holy **Benefactors**, but bless *Almighty God* for; and henceforward direct my self wholly to; without offering either your *Lordship*, my *Lord Elect* your Honourable *Successor*, his Brethren the *Court of Aldermen*, the *Gentlemen* of the *Hospital*, or my *Self*, the *Interruptions* I have been so long driven, at the end of every Three Months, fruitlessly to repeat on this *Subject*. But apply my self to the speedy bringing-up to this *Day* what is now behind of my **Report**, for the Six Months your *Lordship* has thus unhappily added to the *Time* I had last adjust'd it to, relating to the **Moral** Part of this *House's Misery*: In order to such *Use* to be made thereof, as a like **Royal Inspection** may, I trust, find it convertible to.

It remains; That in taking my Leave of your *Lordship* (which I would do with all the *Respect* due to your *Lordship's* just *Character*) I beg you to consider, Whether what I either have done, am now doing, or may have further to do, in *Exposing* my *Observations* and *Sentiments* in this *Matter*, be either more or other, than what my *Charge* as a *Governour* obliges me to; and what my self alone, through my closer *Applications* to the *Service* of the *House*, am enlighten'd to do; or elsewhere, than by my immediate *Duty* I am bound; or, which is yet more, in any other manner, than what is alone left me to do it in.

Especially, after the *Miscarriage* of all other *Methods* (*Personal* and *Written*) employ'd by me with those I thought most concern'd to improve them; whether at their *Committees* and *Courts*, or separately as *Private Governours* and *Superior Ministers*; viz. the **Treasurer**, **President**, and last of all your **Lordship**, both alone, and in *Conjunction* with your Brethren the *Aldermen*: For preventing (if possible) the obvious *Consequences* of my being compell'd to the carrying them elsewhere.

And even this too, with such a degree of *Tenderness*, as, after all that has been said of its being made the *Entertainment* of *Coffee-houses*, (to the *Offence*, I find, of my *Lady Mayorefs* as well as your *Self*, and not a little to my own too, for the sake of the *Poor*,) to stand ready with a *Reward* of Five *Pounds* to whoever shall shew me any one of my *Printed Copies*, other than what were strictly deliver'd by Mr. *Town-Clerk* to Your *Self*, the *Aldermen*, and the *Assistants* of that *Court*; and those severally indors'd by a *Hand* of my own, with the *Name* of each *Person* intitled to the same.

And

And if this, *My Lord*, be a **Libel**; I shall not undertake for its being my *last*, where nothing *gentler* will be hearken'd to; rather than be conscious of an approaching *Ruin* to a *Foundation* like this I'm concern'd for, and be **Dumb**.

Next, *My Lord*, for avoiding any unnecessary Repetition of *Trouble* to the *Court* now sitting, where Your *Lordship* has yet the *Honour* of *Presiding*; permit me to pray, That in the *Notice* you may see reasonable to take there, of this *Paper*: You will please to be its *Remembrancer*, in what, for the *Considerations* assign'd in my *last*, I then bespoke its *Favour* in reference to the disburthening me of a *Charge*, in which I am at the end of any *Hopes* of seeing my self further *serviceable*.

Lastly, let it be no *Offence* to Your *Lordship*, that I end with an *Observation*, impossible for me to over-look. Namely; That while I am here lamenting the Misfortune of our *Poor*, from the *Suppression* of this **Report** of mine, calculated for their *Relief*; I find so much of it (and so much only) as seem'd to me the properest *Introduction* to it, in *Advancement* of *Charity*; transferr'd *in terminis* to the Head of a *Sermon* and made the *Text* of it, preach'd before your *Lordship*, and published by *Your Command*, in express *Diminution* thereof. And not that *only*; but to the doing violence to the *Memory* of *One* (scarce yet *Cold* in his *Grave*) whose **Good Works** have been too *many* and too *conspicuous*, not to have covered *Errors* of a much greater *Magnitude* (for no Man thought him *Infallible*) than any I hear him charg'd with. Especially, in a *Point* of *Faith*; wherein 'tis hard to say, which rais'd the greater *Dust*, and most to the offence of *Weaker Eyes*: His *single* Departure from the *Doctrine* of *Our Church*, towards the *Wrong*; or that of *our own Doctors* from *One another*, in their *Determinations* touching the *Right*.

So far only I shall adventure to interpose, in the particular *Doctrine* advanced in this *Sermon* by Your *Lordship's* *Chaplain* (whom I take to be the first that ever rais'd it from that *Text*) as with all deference to recommend it back to Your *Lordship*, with this only *Improvement*, for the rendring it more *apposite* and *edifying* in the present *Case*; *Viz. That the Neglect of the Poor is as little an Evidence of a True Faith, in any Body else; as the Care of them is a Justification of a Mistaken one, in St. Fermin.*

I am, most respectfully,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

B

S. Pepys.

A COPY, of the foremention'd
Letter of April the 5th.

Tork-Buildings, April 5th. 1693.

My Lord,

After acknowledging with all thankfulness to your *Lordship* (but with no small *uneasiness* to my self, from my not being yet able to do it as I *ought*) for the double *Honour* of your *Lordship's* late *Visits*: I take this time for putting into your *Hand* (by your *Servant* Mr. *Parry*) my expected *Report*, upon the *Subject* you have been pleas'd to give me so much *Evidence* of your compassionate *Concernment* for; I mean, that of *Christ-Hospital*: clos'd at the *Day* I lately presum'd to bespeak of your *Lordship* (had it stood with your *well-liking*) for its Delivery in *Court* there. And this I take the liberty of giving your *Lordship* the single trouble of;

First, As by your *Great Office* you are, and stand originally declar'd to be, *Chief Ruler* and *Governour* (in Superiority to the *President* himself) both of that and every other *Hospital*. In which *Quality* I submit it afresh to your *Lordship* to consider; How far you may yet think fit to concur with me, in the having it communicated to that *Court*: For the sake of the many *Gentlemen* of the first Degree for *Honour* and *Probity* in that *Body*, wholly uninform'd in every *Article* of its *Contents*, and who (were they appris'd thereof) would as little bear being thought *Assistants* to the present *Managements* there, as my self can, who have now from 14 *Years* past, been on that *Score* alone, avowedly withdrawn therefrom.

Nor do I repeat this, *My Lord*, from the least *View* I can yet have of any *Success* from it, after the *Reception* met-with there by my last. But in pure Discharge of what I hold it my *Duty* to do, towards that *House* and *Them*, and to their late *Resolution* in *Court* touching this *Matter*: Whatever their *Returns* may be for it, towards either *Themselves* or *Me*.

Next, with regard to your yet greater and nearer *Interest* in this *Affair*, as *Head* of that *Body*, the *Mayor*, *Commonalty*, and *Citizens* of *London*, incorporated by K. *Edward VI*, as *Governours General* of all his *Hospitals*. To whom *We* of the particular Houses rest accountable for what *We* do; as (with due deference) I take *Them* to be, by *Solemn Indenture*, to the *King*; and particularly,

That the *Revenues* of the said *Hospitals*, over and above the ordinary *Fees*, *Pensions*, and *Lawful Charges*, going out of the same, without *Fraud* or *Covin*, shall be wholly bestow'd, employ'd, and go, to the *Relief* and *Sustentation* of the *Poor*.

And under this *Character* I am again to submit to Your *Lordship*, the *Consideration* and *Choice* of Your *Time* and *Method*, for bringing it before Your self in *Conjunction* with that *Body*, for its further *Disposal*, as in Your and Their *Wisdoms* shall be found reasonable.

Allowing

Allowing me *only* to add ; That the late Unhappy *Case* of the *Orphans* of your *Rich*, seems yet too fresh (could it be prevented) to be so soon follow'd by *One* of so much a more *moving* sound as *This*, of the *Orphans* of your *poor*. The *Point*, of all others, wherein the *Credit* of this *City* has (from the immortal *Performances* of our *Foreshadows*) been hitherto preserv'd the most *unshaken*: And therefore *lest* fit for our present *Violation*; as bearing in it the *Cause* of dead *Benefactors* and living *Infants*, a-like *incapable* of being their own *Advocates*. And so much, *My Lord*, the more worthy of, as well as needing, your *Lordship's* *Patronage*, and the *Benefit* of your *Authority* (*great* indeed, but daily *short'ning*) as in a *Service*, at once, acceptable to *God*, aidful to his *poor*, profitable to the *Publick*, and of consequence to the *general* *Honour* of the *City*, and eminently *so* in *particular* to your *Lordship*.

Towards which, if *ought* further from me may be thought *useful*; your *Lordship* is fully *Master* both of *Me* and *It*. Whether as to the *Whole*, or that special *Part* of it, which respects the *Mathematick* *Foundation*, instituted by my *Royal Master* *Charles II.* for the *Advancement* of *Navigation*. Which I must not spare the declaring to your *Lordship* my being too particularly interested in, ever silently to see the *Ruin* of. And therefore must beg your *Lordship's* and *their* making such *Use* of it, in your *Procedure* and *Adjustments* with the *Treasurer* and his *Security* in their approaching *Discharge*, as on the *King's* *Behalf* and your *Own* shall appear expedient.

Nor yet (*as before*) would I be thought so far to restrain my *Care* herein to *this* *Foundation*, as to forget my *general* *Duty* to the *Whole*: By omitting to observe to you, That there lies no less *Room* open, for the Exercise of your *Lordship's* and the *City's* *Authority*, *Trust*, and *Paternal* *Regard* to the *Weal* of that *Whole*, than of this particular *Branch* of it: By seeing; that the *near* 200,000 *l.* of our *poor's* *Estate* concern'd in that *Gentleman's* *Account*, (and never yet *allow'd*, *look'd* *into*, or so much as regularly *laid* before a *Court* there) receive its *Passage* through *yours*, in such manner as it *ought*, and *We* would it *should*, were the *Effects* thereof all our *own* *Fathers* *Gifts*, and the *Orphans* interested in them our *own* *Childzen*. As in a *Civil*, as well as *Religious* *Construction*, they indeed are *little* *less*: Being most of them, the real wretched *Orphans* of our *Fellow-Citizens*.

To *Whom*, as *such*, I have ever most affectionately labour'd, and from this your *Lordship's* and the *City's* earnest, though late, *Interposition* on their *Behalf*, will not yet despair, of seeing *my self* once again in a Condition of being *Useful*. Remaining,

My LORD

Your Lordship's most faithful

and most obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.

To the Committee of CHRIST-HOSPITAL,
appointed for the Receiving and Considering
my Report touching the State thereof.

Wednesday, Octob. 26th. 1698.
York-Buildings.

Gentlemen,

I Do with great *Respect* acknowledge my having this day receiv'd from the hands of my honoured Friends Mr. Lane and Mr. Wilmot, your written *Command* of the 24th. *Instant*; and at their Desire return you this my like *Answer*. Viz.

That, besides what has been heretofore abundantly noted to you from among *Your selves* in open **Court**, of the Reasons (both *Personal* and *Publick*) of my **Non-Attendance** there; and what has moreover, for now more than 10 *Months* lain before you in the last *Paragraph* of my Letter thereto of the 17th. of *December* (wrote at their own *Instance*, and on an occasion then most *pressing*) touching the **Report** you are now desiring my *Copy* of; I pray you to know, viz.

That for the *Reasons* then given you, I did above 6 *Months* since lodge for your Use, and expressly directed so, the *Original* of that **Report**, with the **Lord Mayor**.

That his *Lordship* was pleased from time to time by his *Messages* to assure me, of his having communicated it to the **Court** of **Aldermen**, and its being from thence referr'd to, and lying before a **Select Committee**.

That understanding, after 3 *Months Expectation* of it, *No advance* to have been made therein; I took the liberty of reminding his *Lordship* by one Letter, and laying the *Whole Matter* in another, before the **Court** of **Aldermen**, in *July* last.

That with solemn written *Thanks* given me for it from both; and their *Joynt-assurance*, that Nothing should be wanting on their part towards its *Recovery* and *Reformation*; they tell me, my *Memorials* (which could be nothing but what you are now seeking after) lay still before their *Committee*.

Lastly; That finding, after another 3 *Months*, *Nothing* yet done; but instead on't, my *Papers* (I know not how) *sunk*, or *pretended* to be so, between his *Lordship* and Sir *Thomas Stamp*; and being from thence, from the *Nature* of the *Affair*, and the *Proofs* I have met with (different from all I have ever been accustomed-to) of the *Motion* of these **Bodies**, convinced of the *Hopelessness* of any *Remedies* therefrom to the
Evils

Eails before us; I have by a very late *Letter* to my *Lord Mayor* in *Court* (whereto I pray you to be referr'd) taken my final Leave both of *Him*, and *It*, and *You*; in order to my resorting to what alone is able to set us *right*, and whereof I have long ago been your *Unhappy Remembrancer*; I mean, a **Royal Visitation**.

Not nevertheless, but that, should his *Lordship* and the *Court* of *Aldermen* (to whom alone, as before, I have left my self yet at *Liberty* to expose it) be together satisfied in the **Disparaging** of this **Report** of mine, and shall think fit to require a *Duplicate* of it; I hold it my *Duty* to obey them; but in such *manner*, as may best prevent its being any more so **Disparaid**.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most affectionate, most faithful,

and most humble Servant,

S. Pepys

To the R^t Hon^{ble} Sir Fr. Child, L^d Mayor.

[Accompanying, to Him and the Court of Aldermen,
Copies of the preceding Letters.]

Tork-Buildings, Tuesday Nov. 8. 1698.

My Lord,

I Am (by an *Omission* of your **Predecessor's**) compell'd to the **Wel-**
coming your *Lordship* to your honorable *Chair*, with the trouble of
a *Copy* of what I found necessary to take my **Farewell** with, of
Him. I mean, my *Lord*, a *Letter* of mine of the 25th. of the last, addres-
sed to him in **Court** (as this is to your *Lordship*) and not only *there* de-
livered and opened, but with part of it expressly worded for his commu-
nicating thereto.

Nor

Nor am I ignorant, my Lord, how far your Self and **Court** have expressed your *Resentments* of the want of it from him: and on that *Consideration*, think my self under the greater Obligation of giving you this *View* thereof, in the *Method* I did my last. Wherein with what *Tenderness* I governed my-self, towards both this **Court** and the **Hospital** concerned in it, will be best understood from the *Enclosed*, and what I might further appeal to from some of your own honour'd *Members* concerning it.

Which *Paper*, my Lord, I therefore thus humbly lodge in your *Lordship's* hands and *Theirs*, with two *Others* on the same *Subject* (one of elder, the other of later *Date*) of equal *Service* to the illustrating of the same; And all submitted to such your *Applications* of them, as your *Predecessor* shall be found to have left you *Opportunity* for.

Mr. PEPYS,
upon the State of
Christ-Hospital.

Paper II.

One thing only I have to *pre-bespeak* concerning them. Namely, that the *Earnestness* wherewith I may be thought delivering my self therein, touching the *Necessity* of a **Royal Visitation**; may not be interpreted to arise, from any *Propension* in me to the removing this *Affair* out of **Your hands**; or as pretending to any *power* or *purpose* of doing more towards it, than the bringing it within the *Notice* of that **Minister**, with whom the **Crown** hath lodged the determining of the *Reasonableness*, of taking it into *its* **Own**. And so much, my Lord, I think my self, in Faithfulness to *It*, to *You*, and to the *Poor*, indispensably bound to do: And that, upon such *Convictions* of the *Necessity* of it, as the **Piety** of this **Court** (when truly *enlighten'd* in 'em, and *apprised* of what my *Former* and *This* shew you to lye yet *unreported* by me, of much harsher a *Hearing* than all that has been yet spoken of) will be but *too well* and, I fear, *too late* satisfied in the **Reasons** of.

I am, My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.

4 per 29. 1699.